

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: March 31, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on March 24, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Follow Up Inspection, Dearborn Refining Company, Dearborn, Michigan

On March 21-22, 2000, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley, accompanied by the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors, revisited the Dearborn Refining Company to follow up on prior inspections (the previous sampling effort was in mid-January). Surface soil samples were collected at locations previously sampled at depth by Geoprobe. One tank, which had shown elevated polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels in its bottom sludges, was sampled at mid-depth at the request of Toxic Substances Control Act staff. A site leveling survey was conducted to verify owner's contention that a natural "bowl" provided secondary containment. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures inspection was also conducted to verify current status.

Contact: Robert Buckley (734-692-7662)

Five-Year Review Completed, NL Industries/Taracorp/Golden Auto Superfund Site, St. Louis Park, Minnesota

On March 22, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, signed a five-year review for the NL Industries/Taracorp/Golden Auto Superfund site in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The purpose of the review was to evaluate whether the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued a Request for Response Action to National Lead, Taracorp and Golden Auto Parts in January 1984. In 1985, National Lead Voluntarily entered into an Administrative Order and Response Order by Consent Order. The Consent Order called for: onsite soil investigation, stabilization, and cleanup; onsite groundwater investigation; long-term groundwater monitoring; off-site soil remedial investigation; and, if necessary, a feasibility study to evaluate remedial alternatives. On September 23, 1988, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed. The selected remedy for the site was no further action. The five-year review site visit confirmed that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Contact: Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Meeting (Information Request Letters), Fox River NRDA/PCB Releases Site, Winnebago, Outagamie & Brown Counties, Wisconsin

On March 17, 2000, a meeting was held with representatives of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the Fox River NRDA/PCB Releases site in Winnebago, Outagamie & Brown Counties, Wisconsin. The meeting was held to discuss the information request letters dated February 4, 2000. Those letters requested specific financial and other information relative to the study underway to determine the PRPs' ability to pay and the economic impacts of the potential cleanup. The PRPs sought clarification of the information requested and relief from some of the requests. U.S. EPA was willing to consider changes to the letters, while maintaining the need for financial information necessary to perform a financial analysis of the condition of the PRPs.

Contact: Frank Boenzi (312-353-8752)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Training, National Park Service, Isle Royale Headquarters, Houghton, Michigan

On March 22, 2000, Ann Whelan and Michelle Jaster of the Emergency Response Branch participated in an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Training session for National Park Service employees. The training was held in Houghton, Michigan, for Ranger and maintenance employees of Isle Royale National Park. Ann and Michelle presented a 4-hour session on environmental regulations and planning efforts. Topics and regulations discussed included Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, OSHA, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, hazardous waste management, and Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (including the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures, Federal Response Plan, and Area Contingency Plan programs).

Contacts: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)
Michelle Jaster (312-886-7193)

Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee Meeting, Duluth, Minnesota

On March 21, 2000, Ann Whelan and Michelle Jaster from the Emergency Response Branch attended the Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) meeting in Duluth, Minnesota at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's regional office. Members of the PAC include the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Duluth, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Division of Emergency Government, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and numerous local government and industry representatives. The PAC members discussed the Sub-Area Contingency Plan, the Regional Response Team (RRT), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration response capabilities,

and potential summer response issues surrounding the timber blowdown in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. In addition, Ann and a representative from the Great Lakes Commission presented an overview of the recently released draft Inland Waterways Spill Response Atlas for the Sub-Area. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2000, in Duluth, Minnesota.

Contacts: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)
Michelle Jaster (312-886-7193)

Meeting, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Springfield, Illinois

On March 21, 2000, John Elkmann, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Planning, met with the staff of the Hazardous Materials Section of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency in Springfield, Illinois. Discussed were the creation of an electronic reporting system, and the ways and means of bringing the State's Tier II data base into a compatible Computer Aided Management Emergency Operations format for sharing with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and Fire Companies. Illinois would like to have both projects initiated for the 2000 Reporting year and fully in place for the 2001 Reporting year.

Contact: John Elkmann (312-353-8196)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
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